

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claims 15 and 25 for reasons discussed below. Applicants submit that the claims remain fully supported by the specification.

Typographical Error

Applicants have amended the specification at page 1 to delete reference to EP 0 933 581, which is directed an automatic lubricating oil feeding system clearly unrelated to the present invention.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to the terms "isomer" and "isomers" as used in Claim 15 (and by implication Claim 25). As previously pointed out in their Preliminary Amendment at page 12, Applicants believed that the term "isomer" would be understood to include the terms described in their specification at page 2, lines 1-4. However, in view of the comments provided in the Office Action at page 2, Applicants have amended Claims 15 and 25 as kindly proposed by the Examiner to refer to stereoisomers.

The term "stereoisomer" is, of course, a general term that includes within its meaning such terms as geometrical isomers (i.e., cis-trans or Z/E isomers), optical isomers (i.e., enantiomers and diastereomers often described as + or – isomers or R- or S-isomers), and configurational isomers (i.e., compounds having the same bonding but different spatial locations for the atoms, of which geometrical and optical isomers can be regarded as subsets), each of which is mentioned in Applicants' specification. Regio isomers – also mentioned in the specification – are compounds having the same atoms but at different spatial positions and thus are not generally considered stereoisomers. However, because formula (I) defines the various substituents in such a way that at least some positional variations are included within the scope of the claims, Applicants' claimed compounds inherently include such regio isomers. Applicants' claims are thus directed to the same embodiments as before but are defined using clearer language.

Applicants respectfully submit that their claims as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Objection

Claims 16-28 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the ground of objection as been traversed.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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